

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [00011] as follows:

[00011] Brucella is the bacterium that causes what is commonly known as Brucellosis, a disease that can cause can cause significant adverse health effects if not detected early and treated with appropriate antibiotics. Brucellosis is characterized by “a range of symptoms that are similar to the flu and may include fever, sweats, headaches, back pains, and physical weakness. Sever infections of the central nervous systems or lining of the heart may occur. Brucellosis cab [sic] also causes long-lasting or chronic symptoms that include recurrent fevers, joint pain, and fatigue.” This information can be found at the website for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the Internet address- ~~www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dmd/diseaseinfo/brucellosis_g.htm#whatis~~. It is on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) list of possible bacteria that has potential as a biological warfare weapon. The CDC has developed a list of possible pathogens that may be used as bioterrorism weapons. Brucella has been listed in Category B of possible diseases and agents. Those diseases and agents in Category B are considered a high risk to national security because they “are moderately easy to disseminate; result in moderate morbidity rates and low mortality rates; and require specific enhancements of CDC's diagnostic capacity and enhanced disease surveillance.” This information can be found at the CDC website internet address- ~~www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist-category.asp~~.

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

~~Described herein are the identification of nucleotide~~ Nucleotide sequences specific to Brucella that serves as a marker or signature for identification of this bacterium were identified. In addition, forward and reverse primers and hybridization probes derived from these

nucleotide sequences that are used in nucleotide detection methods to detect the presence of the bacterium are disclosed.